

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 647

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

UNCLAS HALIFAX 220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: SPEECH IN HALIFAX BY PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU

1. AT LIBERAL PARTY TESTIMONIAL DINNER IN HALIFAX TO HONOR PRIVY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ALLAN MACEACHEN'S 20 YEARS SERVICE AS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND TEN AS CABINET MINISTER, PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU WAS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER.
2. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED IN SPEECH GIVEN IN MARITIMES, PRIME MINISTER DEALT WITH PROBLEM OF EASING REGIONAL DISPARTITIES. HE SAID EFFORTS TO DO SO ARE AT CROSSROADS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEW PROVINCE WIDE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED BEFORE END OF YEAR.
3. UNDER TERMS OF NEW AGREEMENT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION (DREE) FUNDS AVAILABLE TO ALL PARTS OF THE PROVINCE RATHER THAN AS HITHERTO TO SPECIFIC GROWTH CENTERS. NEW DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WILL ALLOW BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE INVESTMENT FUNDS AND DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES IN ALL PARTS OF THE PROVINCE AND WOULD THEREFORE REQUIRE GREATER COORDINATION OF EFFORTS.
4. TRUDEAU SAID DECENTRALIZATION OF DREE WITH REVERSAL OF

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PRESENT SEVENTY PERCENT OF DREE OFFICIALS IN OTTAWA AND THIRTY

PERCENT IN PROVINCES WILL MAKE FEDERAL OFFICIALS MORE AWARE
OF LOCAL REALTIES AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF PROGRAMS.

5. PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WAS NOT FOLLOWING TIME-HONORED CUSTOM
OF FEDERAL POLITICIANS COMING TO MARITIMES TO MAKE A SPECIFIC
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL AID. IN THIS REGARD SAID HE WAS
APPALLED AFTER RECENT VISIT TO NEW BRUNSWICK BY LOCAL NEWS-
PAPER COMMENT THAT HE COULD AT LEAST HAVE 'THROWN THEM A BONE.'
HE SAID 'CANADIANS ARE NOT DOGS..WE DO NOT THROW EACH OTHER
BONES'. HE SAID 'WE HAVE A COMMON PURPOSE...REGIONAL DEVELOP-
MENT AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.'

6. TRUDEAU SAID THAT THERE ARE SIGNS THAT FEDERAL EFFORTS
TO FIGHT REGIONAL INEQUALITY BEGINNING TO PAY OFF. NOTED THAT
YEAR BEFORE DREE ESTABLISHED, 6,000 PERSONS MIGRATED OUT OF
ATLANTIC REGION. NOW THERE IS NET IMMIGRATION OF 6,000. 'TO ME,
THAT IS WHAT REGIONAL EXPANSION MEANS...6,000 PERSONS MOVING
INTO THE REGION INSTEAD OF THE SAME NUMBER MOVING OUT.

7. PRIME MINISTER SAID ALSO GAP BETWEEN REGION AND REST
OF CANADA BEGINNING TO NARROW. FOR EXAMPLE, WAGES AND SALARIES
HAVE RISEN FASTER THAN IN REST OF CANADA SINCE 1968. PER
CAPITA INVESTMENT, WHICH WAS 73 PERCENT OF NATIONAL AVERAGE
TEN YEARS AGO, FORECAST IN 1973 AS 85 PERCENT. JOB FORMATION
IN 1967 ABOUT 4,000, WAS 17,000 IN 1972.

8. ADMITTED IN SOME AREAS FEDERAL PROGRAMS HAVE NOT ACHIEVED
ENOUGH. ATLANTIC REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT STILL MORE THAN
33 PERCENT ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE AND PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME
30 PERCENT BELOW.

9. CONGEN TRYING TO OBTAIN TEXT AND IF AVAILABLE WITH TRANSMIT.
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